

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
SING et al. ) Group Art Unit:  
Application No.: ) Examiner:  
Filed: September 26, 2001 )  
For: ABSORBABLE SPONGE WITH )  
CONTRASTING AGENT )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment prior to examination of the above-referenced application. Formal drawings are also being filed herewith. The subject application is a Continuation Application under 37 C.F.R. §153(b) of Application Serial No. 09/630,814.

In the Specification, please replace the last paragraph on page 7 with the following:

--While the absorbable sponge material can be employed with any suitable medical instrument, a preferred device and method for facilitating hemostasis of a biopsy tract is described herein to illustrate use of the absorbable sponge material. The technique is further described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/247,880, filed on February 10, 1999 and entitled "Device and Method for Facilitating Hemostasis of a Biopsy Tract," now U.S. Patent No. 6,086,607, which is incorporated herein by reference.--

Please delete claims 1-6 and add new claims 14-27 as follows:

--14. The ~~method of claim 7~~ wherein the contrasting agent is substantially dispersed throughout the absorbable sponge material.